

Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

October 31, 2013

New Leadership

Central Office

Districts

Northwest

Northeast

Kansas City

Central

St. Louis

Southwest

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Entire Edition

State Design Engineer - Eric Schroeter



New State Design Engineer Eric Schroeter brings 21-years of MoDOT Experience to his new role.

Eric Schroeter was named MoDOT's State Design Engineer.

Schroeter is a 1992 graduate of the University of Missouri with a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering and is a professional engineer in the state of Missouri. He has enjoyed a 21-year career at MoDOT in a variety of positions, including construction, operations and at both the district and central office management levels.

"Eric has been an outstanding leader throughout his career at MoDOT," Assistant Chief Engineer Kathy Harvey, who previously served as State Design Engineer, said. "He embraces innovation and partnering with others which is critical to the future design and construction of Missouri's transportation system."

Schroeter worked in construction from 1992-2000, advancing to resident engineer. He became area engineer in 2000 and directed all maintenance and construction operations in Pettis, Benton and Cooper Counties until 2003. He then moved to the position of Central District Operations Engineer and became Assistant District Engineer in 2006.

After serving a stint as Interim District Engineer in the Central District, he was named Assistant State Design Engineer in 2011.

MoDOT Motor Carrier Services Director - Scott Marion



MoDOT's new director of Motor Carrier Services, Scott Marion, is excited to continue working with MCS's customers as director of the division.

Scott Marion was named director of the Motor Carrier Services division this week. Marion proved his abilities as the assistant director of MCS since 2011. He joined MoDOT in 2008 after a successful career with Wal-Mart, ultimately serving as store director in Jefferson City.

"Scott is very focused on customer service. He understands the importance of the motor carrier industry to Missouri's economy and to the lives of all Missourians because motor carriers deliver so many of the goods that citizens depend on every day," said MoDOT Chief Financial Officer, Roberta Broeker. "I know Scott will do a great job serving the industry and the taxpayers of Missouri."

MoDOT Motor Carrier Services streamlines the process for truckers to begin - and remain - in business in Missouri. It performs safety inspections and promotes regulation compliance; issues and renews commercial vehicle registration and license plates; fuel tax licenses; oversize overweight load permits and more, in a one-stop shop.

"I'm very proud of the Motor Carrier Services team and thrilled to serve as their leader," said Marion. "I look forward to working with our customers and stakeholders with the same level of care and attention as always."

Safe & Sound Wins People's Choice Award

A MoDOT project that built new bridges in each of Missouri's 114 counties and was completed more than a year early and under its \$685 million budget was named one of the nation's two best projects completed in 2012.

The Safe & Sound Bridge Improvement Program received the People's Choice Award



Left to right - Rhode Island Department of Transportation Director and former AASHTO President Mike Lewis, MoDOT Director Dave Nichols and AASHTO Executive Director Bud Wright.

- decided by popular vote of the general public - in the America's Transportation Awards competition sponsored by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), AAA and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. The project earned more than 330,000 online votes to win the award. MoDOT Director Dave Nichols accepted the award at AASHTO's annual meeting in Denver.

This is the second time MoDOT has won in this competition that is now in its sixth year. The reconstruction of I-64 in St. Louis was the winner of the Grand Prize in 2010, which is chosen by a panel of judges. Utah won that award this year for a project that expanded Interstate 15.

MoDOT will contribute the \$10,000 award prize to CureSearch for Children's Cancer, which funds and supports targeted and innovative children's cancer research. There is a personal connection between the Safe & Sound project and CureSearch. KTU Constructors' project director Harry Koenigs and his wife Robin lost their son Jake to a form of children's cancer in 2006. They, along with Koenigs' employer, Kiewit, have worked tirelessly to raise research funds to find a cure ever since through a series of "JakeFest" golf tournaments that have netted more than \$1 million.

"We are happy to contribute this prize to the CureSearch effort," Nichols said. "Harry Koenigs' leadership was a huge factor in the success of Safe & Sound, and we are honored to be able to contribute to an effort that he is so passionate about."

As Winter Approaches, MoDOT Prepares With Statewide Drill

by Holly Dentner

For the second year in a row, MoDOT will test its readiness for the upcoming winter season with a statewide drill on Nov. 5. The drill is one component of MoDOT's winter battle plan to make sure travelers can get back on Missouri roadways as quickly as possible after winter storms.

"More than 3,000 of MoDOT employees are involved in our winter operations, including every maintenance crew across the state," said State Maintenance Engineer Beth Wright. "The drill helps to make sure we all know our roles during a storm and we can do our jobs successfully."

During the drill, MoDOT employees will react to a simulated forecast of significant snow for the entire state. The department's emergency operations centers will activate and maintenance employees will be deployed to their trucks.

"One of the most valuable parts of the drill is to measure our snowplow circuit by driving every route we plow during a storm," said Wright. "This helps us anticipate response times and reminds our operators of how long it takes to complete those circuits."

Motorists may notice increased numbers of MoDOT vehicles on state routes during the drill. In rural areas, crews will deploy after 8 a.m. In urban areas, the drill will not begin until after 9 a.m. Wright estimates that the exercise will take about six hours.



A MoDOT tow plow cuts through the snow during a big winter storm on Feb. 20.

information are available at [Winter Driving Tips](#).



Members of the Eureka maintenance crew attached plows to trucks in advance of last year's drill.

The drill isn't the only element to MoDOT's winter weather operations. All maintenance employees complete an annual winter skills training that serves as a refresher course for plowing snow. The training assures that proper equipment operation, plowing techniques and safety measures are fresh on employees' minds as winter approaches. Every piece of equipment – every truck, motorgrader, snow blower, and tractor is inspected to ensure proper operation.

"Our ultimate goal is to handle the first snowfall like we've been plowing snow all year," said Wright. "Careful planning and preparation means our crews can mobilize when needed and our equipment will be ready."

MoDOT spends about \$42 million annually to keep roads clear in the winter and help ensure motorists get to their destinations safely and quickly. Road conditions across the state, safe traveling tips and other winter weather

Team Talk

by Roberta Broeker

Hello Team MoDOT! Fall is truly here. We have cool, crisp mornings, mums on the front porch, and pumpkins everywhere. As I drive around our state, I truly enjoy seeing the changing fall leaves. What beautiful evidence of a good growing season. And this time of year is a great opportunity to check your personal growing season with your supervisor during mid-year performance reviews. If you're in a job with a career ladder, be sure you know what you need to do to reach the next level. The rest of us need to be asking, "What do I need to do to be a better employee?"



Being a better employee means taking advantage of every opportunity to improve you. Some of you may have a specific job in mind you're working toward. But even if you're unsure of what your dream job is, or want to stay right where you are, we all need to work at improving ourselves as part of our core value of being better.

And you're not out on your own. MoDOT has learning opportunities all over. Whether it's formal classroom training, on-the-job training or computer-based courses, there's a course in MoDOT's Learning Management System to fit your needs. Go to the Human Resources intranet page and click on [Employee Development](#). Then select LMS Student Center. If you need help, contact someone on your local HR staff.

But learning doesn't have to be all about following a training outline. MoDOT offers you opportunities to job shadow employees in other parts of the organization. It's your chance to see what a regular day might be like in a job you're working toward. If you're interested in

job shadowing, work with your supervisor and the area you'd be visiting to set up a time. Another great learning opportunity is our mentoring program. Choose a manager or supervisor in an area where you think you might want to work. He or she can offer you firsthand insights on how to grow in your present job or a new position. Another thing to consider is how you will grow by BEING a mentor. There are other MoDOT employees who can use the skills and understanding YOU have to be better...and from firsthand experience, I know this benefits not only the person you are mentoring, but you as the mentor as well. You can find more details on the mentoring program on the Equal Opportunity and Diversity Division intranet page.

After you've set your sights on the job you're growing toward, you may need a college degree. You're in luck because MoDOT recently reinstated the tuition reimbursement program for employees pursuing their associates, bachelors, or masters degrees. We invest in you and your education because we want qualified, experienced, and talented employees to grow and help lead us into the future. If you're interested in taking advantage of this program, contact HR now for the spring semester.

So unlike the plants around us, MoDOT's growing season is 12 months a year. Start now to harvest the benefits of growing yourself and your career at MoDOT.

Thanks for being part of Team MoDOT!

PS – I recently sat down with Senior Governmental Relations Specialist Lisa LeMaster to discuss being better at MoDOT. Here's a link to the video - [You Tube Video](#).



Click above to see a video of Roberta discussing this topic.

Email Migration Moving Forward With Software Development

by Amie Peters



Last week you received an email announcing the rollout of the Outlook, Lync, and Harmon.ie software in preparation for your migration. Currently, the IS Email Team is busy working our way across the state installing the software on everyone's machines. Thank you for remembering to close Windows applications and keep your machines turned on when you leave for the day until you receive the Outlook icon on your desktop. If you work remotely or travel extensively, please try to arrange to be on the MoDOT network as much as possible. Mobile devices, such as iPads, do not need to have the software loaded on them.

When you're migrated you'll have your previous three years of emails in Outlook. As for older emails, you will still have READ ONLY access to your Lotus Notes email while we build your SourceOne archive. If the need arises, you can contact the IS Service Desk to restore an email from Lotus Notes to your Outlook inbox. We'll notify you when your SourceOne archive is ready to use, along with a link and instructions.

If you would like a step-by-step guide to configuring certain aspects of your new email please visit our how-to guides on the [training site](#). If you have you any questions about Outlook please check out our [FAQs](#) as new things are added frequently. Finally, if you are experiencing migration-related issues please submit them to the [HelpDesk](#)! Thank you for your continued support!

News From Human Resources

by Holly Dentner

DOT 2 Employees Now Eligible for Holiday Differential

As the winter season approaches, the odds increase that MoDOT employees will be working nights, weekends and holidays. It's the nature of our work, because transportation is a 24-hour, seven-days-a-week business – especially if it snows.

With more and more employees helping out with winter operations, the department is updating its policy for working hours and overtime. The policy change allows, in certain circumstances, holiday differential pay for "DOT 2" employees.

Holiday differential pay was implemented in 2000 to ensure DOT 1 employees received more than just straight time for working on a holiday. DOT1 employees will continue to receive the differential. By providing the holiday differential to DOT 2 employees, MoDOT ensures they too



under the words “Time & Leave Record” at the top of the screen.

Changes to Policy 3000, [Working Hours and Overtime](#), are effective November 1, 2013.

receive additional compensation for work they are required to perform on holidays.

The differential is not available to any employee who works on a holiday by their own choice or who switches their days off by choice and takes a holiday on a different day of the week.

How do you know if you’re a DOT 2 employee? You can always check with your local human resources contact, but one easy way is to look at your timesheet. Your DOT status is listed right

Panel Review Added as Formal Part of Employee Grievance Policy

On most days, more than 5,000 MoDOT employees come to work, do their jobs, and go home safely. Every once in a while, disagreements occur, or things don’t go as smoothly as they should. Sometimes, situations happen where employees need a formal avenue to resolve a difference of opinion they might have with a department decision.

MoDOT has a grievance procedure in place to assist any full time or permanent part time employee who might need help resolving these types of issues. As of Nov. 1, the department has officially added a panel review as an optional part of the process.

The statewide panel review process was established in 2008 as a pilot project. It allowed for a group of employees not involved with the initial grievance to review the related information and provide an opinion regarding the grievance at the second step of the process. The panel review step is optional, but is part of the process if employees want to seek that option.

Panel members include five employees from the following categories: manager, supervisor, and three non-supervisory employees, including one maintenance crew leader and one employee from the maintenance worker series who is a dues-paying union member. The Human Resources division establishes each panel on a case-by-case basis and panel members will be selected to ensure there are no potential conflicts based on employees who might have the same job location or report to the same supervisor.

PERSONNEL POLICY MANUAL	
MoDOT Personnel Policy Title: Grievance Procedure	
Policy Number: 2100	Chapter Title: Grievances and Complaints
Effective Date: September 1, 2012	
Supersedes Policy Number: 2100	Dated: May 1, 2012
Approved By: Micki Knudsen, Human Resources Director (Signature on file)	

If a grievance evaluation is submitted for a panel review, the panel is authorized to review the following information related to the employee:

- Information related to the grievance provided by the employee, supervisor, human resources manager or other relevant or involved person.
- MAPS forms and other documentation contained in the employee’s performance management file.
- Prior disciplinary historical documentation.
- Previous disciplinary letters.

A grievance panel does not have authorization to access medical information about any employee.

A grievance panel does not have the authority to change a decision, but it will make a recommendation to the district engineer or division leader/state engineer as to whether or not the panel believes the right decision was made.

MoDOT’s full grievance procedure is outlined in [Personnel Policy 2100](#). For additional details on what types of issues are addressed through the grievance procedure or who is eligible to use it, please review the policy or contact your supervisor or human resources representative.

A Voice of Calm

By Tracy Davault

One snowy December morning, a woman called MoDOT Customer Service in Springfield and was frantic. Her granddaughter was trying to drive home for the holidays. The grandmother asked what the roads were like.



Tracy Davault is a Senior Customer Service Representative in the

After settling her down with what I hoped was an understanding voice, I explained our crews were already out plowing the roads. Our people were working to make the roads very safe for the traveling public, I told her. She was very relieved and said she was thankful to hear a human voice on the other end of the line. It helped ease her mind.

I know every MoDOT customer service representative has had this experience many times. It gives all of us great satisfaction to help people by being reassuring and by providing good, solid information.

Have you ever tried to call a business with a concern and all you get is a voice automated recording to direct you? In my opinion, that kind of customer service is so unfriendly. That’s why I like our personal, customer-first approach at MoDOT.

I was one of the MoDOT’s original customer service representatives. I worked on the pilot program starting in 1996. I take great pride in my length of service and in helping people all these years.

I believe the taxpayers of Missouri appreciate that when they call MoDOT they are greeted by a live human being. Our customer service representatives are always willing to help answer questions or resolve concerns.

Southwest District, and an original customer service representative. It's what we do. I'm glad!



Last May, most of the customer service representatives from around the state gathered for a statewide meeting.

Customer Representative Month

October celebrates customer service representatives. MoDOT has dedicated customer service staff statewide who provide outstanding customer service to our citizens. We thank them for their service.

To see all MoDOT's dedicated representatives' individual photos click here - [Customer Service Representatives](#)

Fatality Update



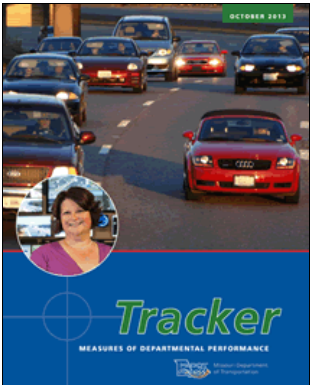
What's Happening



Not Too Late For Flu Shots

Flu season is upon us. MoDOT employees who are Coventry subscribers are eligible to receive a flu vaccination at 100 percent coverage under your preventive care at any in-network physician's office or pharmacy. Please take time to visit your in-network providers to receive a flu vaccination today!

All you need to do is take your Coventry insurance card and roll up your sleeve for a healthier flu season.



Tracker

The third quarter Tracker is posted on the web. This publication continues to evolve to align with MoDOT's values and tangibles results.

The statewide Tracker meeting will be held on Thursday, Nov. 14. In addition to the Statewide Tracker measures. MoDOT's first Tracker Focal Point, on the topic of safety, will be discussed.

Check out the publication on the web - [Tracker](#)

Innovations Challenge Waiting For Your Great Ideas

The first round competition of the Innovations Challenge is on now and waiting for your submittals. You can submit ideas for this first round through the end of December. So what are you waiting for?



Get your entry form and more details on the program from the Innovations Challenge website at [Innovations Challenge](#) (link works for active employees only).



**Don't Turn Halloween Trick-or-Treat Into Tragedy
Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over**
A safe and sober ride after the party is the best treat you can give yourself and everyone else on the road this Halloween. Law enforcement will be out in full force.

- Before the Halloween festivities begin, plan a way to safely get home at the end of the night.
- Always designate a sober driver.
- If you are impaired, take a taxi, call a sober friend or family member, or use public transportation.

- Walking impaired can be just as dangerous as drunk driving. Designate a sober friend to walk you home.
- If you see a drunk driver on the road, contact law enforcement.
- If you know someone who is about to drive while impaired, take the keys and help them make safe travel arrangements.

For more information on highway safety, go to [saveMOLives.com](#). You can also follow SaveMOLives on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, #saveMOLives, #drivesoberMO and #ArriveAlive.



It's That Time of Year to Watch for Deer
Some 3,980 collisions with deer occurred last year on Missouri's highways, resulting in five fatalities and 411 injuries. Take precautions:

- Be prepared for deer to cross or dart into a road at any time, particularly around dusk and dawn (most deer strike crashes occur from 5 p.m. to 6:49 a.m.).
- Use your high beams if other cars aren't approaching to increase long-distance visibility.
- If you encounter a deer, don't sound your horn but slow down or stop until the animal passes. If you see one, others may be right behind.
- Remember to stay alert, slow down and buckle up. Most people injured in deer-vehicle collisions weren't wearing a seat belt.



Chat With the Chief
Remember to check out Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger's blog post and see Ed's recent post - Sometimes It's The Things You Don't Notice... - [Chat with the Chief](#).



Win a MoDOT Centennial T-shirt
Congratulations to Central Office employee Barbara Stegner of Kansas City and Dan Smith of Bridge in Central Office for knowing that the Customer Service Centers debuted in 1996. MoDOT Centennial T-shirts are on the way to Barbara and Dan.

The vehicle in the center of this 1935 photo is a/an:

- striping vehicle
- surveying crew car
- early version of the ARAN van
- maintenance superintendent's car



Click left to enter online or fax your answer, name and phone number to (573) 526-4859 by Friday, Nov. 8 for a shot at the next t-shirt give away (*link works for active employees only*).

In Memoriam

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| Alphonse Berghager (active employee)
Northeast District – October 2 | Marvin Childress
former D5 – September 23
Jimmie Grebe
former D1 – September 25
Harry House
former D3 – September 27
Elmo Crane
former D5 – October 1
Roney Haden
former D5 – October 1
JoAnn Radford
former D9 – October 9
Scott Dixon
former D8 – October 12 | Charles Waltner
former D2 – October 13
Frederick Morfeld
CO – October 17
Paul Chinn
CO – October 19
Gary Cooper
Former D2 – October 23

Helen Schnare (former Commissioner)
October 10 |
|--|---|--|

Connections

The mission of Connections is to be a source of Missouri Department of Transportation news and feature articles that connect employees statewide.

Customer Relations - MoDOT
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Editor: Tammy Wallace

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

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Motor Carrier Services Earns 100 Percent Customer Satisfaction

by DeAnne Rickabaugh

It's the email that gets opened first.

When the quarterly customer survey result email arrives at Motor Carrier Services, it's opened with nervous expectation. As team members opened and read the latest report, cheers went up across the office. The following email from MCS Assistant Director, Scott Marion, best explains why:



Team MCS,

We did it!

Our August customer satisfaction survey was 100 percent. 68.4 percent of our customers were very satisfied; 31.6 percent were satisfied; and **no one** was dissatisfied or very dissatisfied. Since we started our surveys in 2009, we've had 8 different months with 0 percent very dissatisfied, but never 0 percent for both dissatisfied and very dissatisfied. Every program and section of MCS contributed to this achievement, which means **every single person on our team** contributed.

Two of our customers' comments say it best, "As usual, the staff was very responsive and able to solve my issues. Friendly and helpful! Wish all state agencies were as good!" "Everyone was polite and genuinely cared about helping me set the business up properly."

Thank you all for making outstanding customer service a priority every day with every customer. That's something we should be proud of.

October Health and Safety Tips

Halloween Trick-or-Treat and Other Safety Tips

Halloween Safety is important before, during, and after the trick or treat fun. Taking a few extra seconds to be safe can prevent a lot of tears. Here are some ways you can keep your children a bit safer:

- Ensure your child's costume fits properly. A night of fun can be abruptly ended if they trip because their costume does not fit them properly.
- Ensure your child can see through their mask. Children will be crossing streets and walking up/down porch steps.
- Make sure they can see well enough through their mask to see oncoming cars and steps.
- Don't allow young children to hand out candy without an adult present. An unattended child is an easy target for criminals. Make sure your door remains secured except when handing out treats.
- Remind your children not to enter a home to receive candy (stay on the porch). Your child should stay with the group and never enter a house to receive candy.
- Don't trick-or-treat at a home that does not have a well lighted porch. Remind your child that not everyone gives out candy and going to a dark house can be very dangerous.
- Be sure your child can be seen by passing cars.



Carrying a flashlight allows your child to see and be seen. Placing reflective tape on their costume helps to make them more visible to drivers.

- Do not load/unload children on the traffic side of the vehicle. Remember kids are excited on Halloween, so be sure you only load and unload on the curb side of the vehicle. Please make sure your child uses their seat belt - even if it is difficult with their costume - Arrive Alive.
- Check your child's candy before they eat it. Don't allow your child to eat any treats that have been unwrapped. Take the time to check your child's candy before they eat it.
- Check who is outside before you open the door. Don't assume it's just more children at your door. Look to see who is waiting on your porch.
- Know who and where your child is going to trick-or-treat and set a curfew.

Other Tips to Stay Safe:

With days getting shorter it is common for employees to arrive or leave work when it is dark outside.

- Whenever possible walk in a group, especially when your car is in a garage or other secluded area.
- If you are alone and you observe a suspicious person in a garage, don't get out of the vehicle. Drive on and park in a more secure location.
- If you are leaving the building and see someone acting suspicious either stay in the building or go in another office building (if you are already outside and too far away from the MoDOT building) and report the issue to Capitol Police (522-2222). Ask that they stay in the area while you get to your vehicle safely.
- When working outside normal business hours, please do not prop doors open. Propping doors not only sets off an alarm, it lessens your security in the work area.
- It is also a good practice while working after hours to have your car keys, cell phone, purse/wallet and of course your access card with you at all times (even when using the restroom). You never know when you might have to leave the building or call help.

While crime can occur anywhere, taking some simple steps can dramatically lessen the chance that you will be a victim. Please remember that a secure work place is the duty of all the members of the MoDOT Team.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact:
Tim Taylor, Senior Risk Management Specialist and Central Office Security Coordinator
Risk and Benefits Management - Central Office
(573) 526-5201
Email: timothy.taylor@modot.mo.gov

More Fun on the Charitable Campaign Trail

Cute Pets – Big Money

Information Systems held a month-long Cutest Pet contest to raise money for the campaign. Pet parents had to design their own collection containers sporting pictures of their adorable pets. The designs were definitely eye catching, one even rotated with lights.

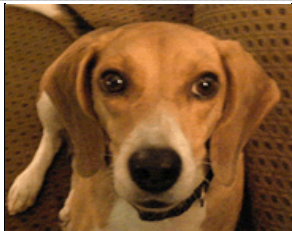
The competition was fierce as stories about the beloved pets were shared during lunch. It was easy to tell as the competition progressed the stories were somewhat embellished to get their pets more attention.

It was all in good fun, and when the competition was over Henry Ring took first place, Jameson Capehart second place, and Carl Ann Christensen third.

The division saw 100 percent participation from employees cheering on their favorite pet, and collected \$821.29 for the campaign!



Henry - Beth Ring



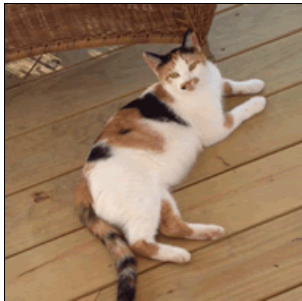
Jameson - Sue Capehart



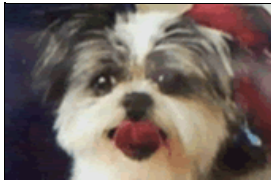
Carl Ann - Devon Christensen



Ellie - Amy Binkley



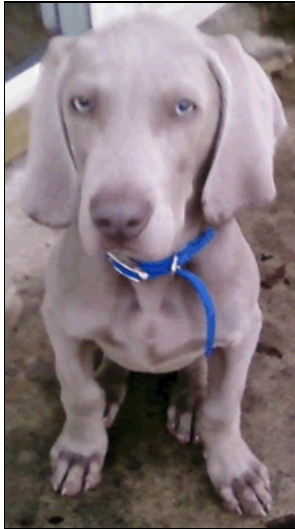
Roxie - Dianna Weber



Fenway - Jennifer Nelp



Nellie - Todd Walters



Bettis - Mary Beth Anthony



"Sticking It" To CR's Leader

Another highly anticipated fundraiser was the Duct Tape Mara to the Wall contest. Although the Customer Relations division held several events, this one raised the most cash and the most laughter.

It took nearly two rolls of duct tape and 50 feet of black gaffer's tape to get CR's Director Mara Campbell immobile and secure on the wall.

Nearly 40 people donated to this event, which raised enough money to keep Mara hanging for about an hour. For almost half that time Mara's mouth was taped shut too!

In total, more than \$900 was raised for this fun opportunity to "stick it" to CR's tiny but mighty leader. The division's total contribution was more than \$1,700 for the campaign.

Thanks Mara for being such a good sport. It was probably the only time we will see you this still!

CR staff and other Central Office employees donated to the Duct Tape Mara to the wall event for the Charitable Campaign.



Karen Miller had the honor of "sticking" the last piece of tape.

What's Happening at Central Office

Missouri State Employees Blood Donation

Please consider giving blood. Your one donation has the potential to save up to three lives.



November opportunities:

Nov. 12 and 13 – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Truman Building - 4th Floor Auditorium

Nov. 15 – 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
St. Joseph Cathedral - Undercroft

Nov. 19 – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Truman Building - 4th Floor Auditorium

Everyone who attempts to donate will receive a complimentary Mizzou Homecoming Blood Drive t-shirt (while supplies last). Pizza will be served during the blood drive.

Make an appointment by visiting www.redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code: MOState.

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Customer Relations - MoDOT
P.O. Box 270, Jefferson City, MO 65102
573.751.2840 / www.modot.org

Editor: Tammy Wallace

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

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Northwest District

Northwest District Fall Meetings

The Northwest District held six fall meetings across 20 counties in the month of October. Presenters included safety, maintenance, planning, leadership, benefits, credit union, EAEC, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad, Missouri Department of Conservation and various organizations to which employees can direct their charitable campaign contributions. A lot of information, good meals and laughs were shared at all the meetings. Thanks go to those who contributed and organized the successful meetings!



Senior Human Resources Specialist Angie Downey presented to the District Office attendees about what is changing and what stays the same in the benefits package.



At the District Office meeting, District Engineer Don Wichern spoke to employees before the earthquake drill.



Each situation in an earthquake may be different. Employees attending the fall meeting at the District Office practiced the building evacuation option, since the meeting was being held in the lowest level of a fairly old brick structure.



Special Olympian Tanner Hrenchir and his sister Katie spoke about how Special Olympics has affected their lives as part of the Charitable Campaign portion of the meeting.



Two engineers from Burlington Northern Santa Fe's Operation Lifesaver spoke to the attendees of the Maryville fall meeting about safe behaviors around rail lines and what we could do both as MoDOT employees and as private citizens to ensure everyone's safety.



Assistant Chief Engineer Kathy Harvey spoke to the Maryville fall meeting group and also took questions from those in attendance.

Agents with the Missouri Department of Conservation spoke to the Maryville fall meeting group. Much of the presentation focused on the elk that was found by the Rock Port Maintenance Crew recently and what that may mean for deer and elk populations as well as those who hunt in Northwest Missouri.



Planning Manager Shannon Kusilek gave an overview of how the district planning process works.



Northwest District EAEC representatives briefly spoke to the group about the role of the EAEC and about fundraising for the needy family fund.



Each fall meeting had a catered meal which is always a highlight, especially when buttery croissants, cheesy potatoes and cookies are on the menu.

Teamwork in Action

Maintenance Supervisor Ed Montgomery sent in the photos below of the Clearmont crew working on Route FF in Nodaway County. They crew was able to put in four tubes in one day on Oct. 16, by using two backhoes. Maintenance Crew Leaders Tony Lager and Dustin Jenkins were the backhoe operators, but it also took the support of the whole crew to make sure everything was done efficiently and safely.



For more info

Marcia Johnson
Customer Relations Specialist

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

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Focus Group Helping With J-Turn Design

Safety improvements on U.S. 63 at the Routes B/P intersection in Clark are moving forward, with the help of local support.

"Feedback from the public about the j-turn design was mixed, yet everyone felt it was important to make it safer," said Area Engineer Brian Haeffner.

He said since the decision was made to use a j-turn design, MoDOT has enlisted the help of three local stakeholders to serve as a focus group by providing input on the actual design itself.

"The standard j-turn design can be modified with other components and options, so we asked the mayor, a county commissioner and a business leader to be part of the design process, and we're very pleased they are willing to participate," he added.

Haeffner said they anticipate having a final design prepared by the end of January 2014 to be ready for the bid letting in March.

"We have listened to concerns and will do what we can to address these through the design process," he explained.

More than likely, the project will be awarded to a contractor in April, with construction to begin next summer. He said there is no additional right of way needed to make these improvements.



The intersection of U.S. 63 and Routes B/P in Clark, just south of Moberly, is slated for a safety improvement.

Around the District...

Members of the south area spent some time Tuesday evening training seven new emergency snow plow operators. Their training, among safety discussions, included maneuvering a plow and learning how to operate the GL400 equipment.





A lot of night work has been taking place around I-70 in Warren County, especially on the service roads. Danny Duke, assistant maintenance supervisor for Warrenton, took this picture at Highway B at the south service road. Warrenton and New Florence crews worked together to make these improvements at night.



The Northeast Coalition for Roadway Safety welcomes Kevin Rhodes as its newest outreach coordinator. He will serve the north and west area of the district helping to deliver the messages of roadway safety.

Kevin is originally from Wolf Lake, Illinois. He and his wife Darson recently moved to Kirksville from the state of New York with their two children Tyus and Jonas.

Over the last few years, Kevin has served in roles such as a program coordinator, teacher and coach. He currently is the physical education teacher at Faith Lutheran School in Kirksville. We are excited to have him on board!

Kevin is pictured sitting down visiting with attendees of the Moberly Community Safety and Health Fair.

For more info

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Comments & Suggestions

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Regional Association of Public Information Officers Hold Media Relations Snow Panel



Dealing with the media during a snow event was the topic of discussion by a panel of the Regional Association of Public Information Officers during their regular monthly meeting Oct. 25 at Mid-America Regional Council.

Steve Porter, MoDOT Senior Customer Relations Specialist, joined Kim Qualls of KDOT, Sean Demory of Kansas City, Mo. Public Works and Kim Nakahodo of Blue Springs municipal government to discuss media protocol during winter weather events.

Porter, Qualls and Demory had plenty to reflect on during the back-to-back snowstorms of Feb. 21 and 25, where more than two feet of snow slammed the

area and kept state and local plow teams working around the clock for more than a week. The panelists' focus was on providing credible, timely content to television, radio and print news gatherers so that the public had information to keep safe and make wise decisions.

Panelists agreed that communicating across agency, state and city boundaries benefits everyone, especially the public. Nakahodo and Demory have different challenges in municipalities than the state agencies face, specifically dealing with parked cars on local streets and the sheer volume of street miles with such obstructions and access challenges.

KDOT also has to see a big picture, warning motorists heading out west of what they may encounter even into eastern Colorado. At some point in severe storms, decisions must be made hundreds of miles east of where the snow is falling.

Porter pointed out that most winter storms come in from the northwest or the southwest – but the west, nevertheless – and that Kansas and KDOT are the bellwethers for winter storm preparedness. And there is a need to convey urgency of danger for even a freezing drizzle incident.

In one of the worst winters of the last two decades, two people died in the Kansas City District in the winter of 2010-11 during an isolated area of freezing drizzle in Cass County, but no fatalities were recorded from the blizzard that occurred just two months later, a blizzard that closed down I-70 from St. Louis to Kansas City and I-44 from St. Louis to Springfield.

District Team Engages Citizens On J-Turn Question

MoDOT Kansas City Area Engineer Mike McGrath talks to a group of more than 75 community members from the Centerview area about a way to improve safety at the Route 50 and Route 58 Intersection using J-turns.

This innovative design eliminates the cross-over at Route 50 and Route 58. J-turns allow drivers to cross traffic on busy roadways safer and easier. Motorists must only deal with two lanes of traffic headed in one direction versus crossing a 4-lane divided

highway with dozens of potential conflict points or vehicle crash points. They essentially eliminate T-bone crashes at intersections; lessen the severity of vehicle collisions, providing a safer alternative to the standard cross-over.



If the district moves forward with this design, this will be the first J-turn constructed in the Kansas City District. Other key locations throughout the state have constructed J-turns in place of cross-overs and the results have shown that motorists are moving safer through the area.

Kansas City 5th Grader Wins Kindle Fire at State Fair

Eleven-year old Hunter Nystrom, fifth grade student at Lewis and Clark Elementary school in Liberty, Mo. is this year's winner of MoDOT's State Fair Scavenger Hunt. Hunter won a brand new Kindle Fire, donated by True Media Services.

Hunter received his new Kindle Fire from Kansas City District Engineer Dan Niec during the fall meeting presentation at the Skiles maintenance facility.

MoDOT's annual scavenger hunt sends fairgoers through the Transportation Exposition Center and Highway Gardens to find answers to 10 transportation-related questions. Hunter correctly answered all ten questions and his name was drawn from hundreds of entries at the conclusion of the fair on Aug. 19.



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Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

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Central District employees recognized by Senior Management Team

MoDOT Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger and the Senior management team recently paid tribute to Jefferson City Resident Engineer Terry Imhoff and maintenance workers from the Fulton, Williamsburg and Mokane facilities for outstanding work.

The group of maintenance workers was recognized for their efforts to ensure a quality product on the Route 54 concrete replacement project between Jefferson City and Holts Summit. Those employees included Crew Leader Jeremiah Werdehausen and crew members Matt Canole, James Hake, Shaheid Koochakyazdi, Timmy Galliten, Tony Embry, Jarrod Urban, Kale Stewart, Melanie Mayes, Travis Gruenloh, Donnie Maddox, Brad Murray, Steve Owens and Ricky Ramirez.



Imhoff was recognized for his recent actions in the face of a local tragedy. A local community near Jefferson City had lost one of its young members and the funeral was scheduled to take place on the same day a resurfacing project was to begin on the highway used by the funeral procession. Imhoff spoke to the contractor for the project and was able to delay the start date of resurfacing by one day, so as not to create any issues with the funeral.

U.S. Route 63 in Vienna christened the "Leona Williams Highway"

Country music entertainer and native Missourian Leona Williams had a stretch of U.S. Route 63 named in her honor in a private dedication ceremony held Oct. 20.

The newly christened "Leona Williams Highway" runs through the singer/songwriter's hometown of Vienna, Mo.

To celebrate the occasion, Leona Williams and her son Ron Williams, along with other family members, gave a public concert at the Vienna High School gymnasium following the dedication ceremony.



“I never dreamed I’d have a highway named after me,” Williams said. “I’m honored and thankful to receive such an honor. I want to credit my family and friends and the folks in Vienna for thinking so highly of me.”

Country music star Leona Williams poses with the sign that designates Highway 63 in Vienna as the “Leona Williams Highway.”

Speakers at the dedication ceremony included Bill Fussner, who gave the invocation and benediction; David Silvester, MoDOT Central District Engineer; Ray Schwartze, Maries County Presiding Commissioner; David McCormick, owner of the Ernest Tubb Record Shop in Nashville; Bill Anderson, also known as Cousin Carl with KWKZ-Pure County Radio in Cape Girardeau; and Corey Ryder, a radio personality from Vermont.

Several themes ran through the speakers’ remarks, including the fact that Williams always remembered her roots and took time to give back to her community and to those who helped her along the way.

Anderson said if he had to use one word to characterize Leona Williams, it would be “integrity.”

“Your career has been built with integrity,” Anderson told Williams.

To view photos from the dedication ceremony, visit our "Leona Williams" folder on the Central District Flickr site: <http://bit.ly/HalsNS>. For more information on Leona Williams, visit www.leonawilliams.com.

Russellville Students Experience Mock Car Crash

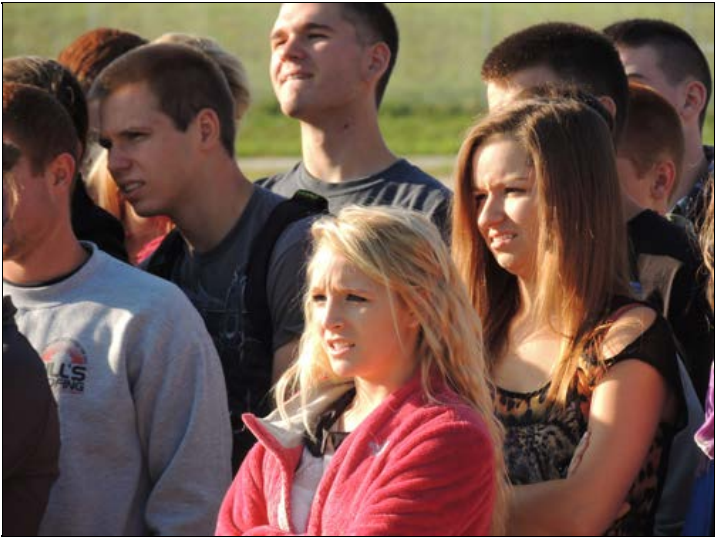
Students at Russellville High School received a sobering reminder of the importance of buckling up during a recent mock car crash presented by Cole County Deputy Sheriff Joe Matherne, the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety, Weber Funeral Home and the local fire department and ambulance service.

The mock car crash showed what can happen to drivers when they don't buckle their seat belts and are ejected from a vehicle. The unbelted driver in the mock car crash died, while the passenger, who was belted survived the crash without an injury.

A short assembly was held after the mock car crash. Students were shown video from the mock car crash and a peer leader spoke to them about the importance of wearing a safety belt.

Photos from the event are below:

Students from Russellville High School recently participated in a mock car crash presented by the Cole County Sheriff's Department and the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety.



Students react to scenes from the mock car crash.



A fire fighter with the Russellville Fire Department works to aid the victims of the mock car crash.

Route AC Bridge Public Meeting

The Central District held a public meeting on Oct. 22 to discuss



the planned rehabilitation of the Route AC bridge over the Osage Fork of the Gasconade River in Laclede County. Here, Project Manager Bruce Green, left, and Transportation Project Designer Randy Potts, right, visit with an area resident. The project is scheduled to take place during the summer of 2014 and will require closing the roadway for up to 60 days.

Happy, Happy Halloween!



It's like looking into a mirror! Two clever district employees dressed as their bosses to celebrate Halloween. Senior Design Technician Liz Berhost dressed as Transportation Project Designer Bob Jany (both left) and Senior Highway Designer Jeannie Hoff dressed as her boss, Transportation Project Manager Randy Potts.

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Comments & Suggestions

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Charitable Softball Tournament raises over \$2400 for the districts employees emergency fund

by Shaunda White

For the second year, the Voice of St. Louis group orchestrated another successful charitable softball tournament and raised money for a good cause. The first tournament started last year when the group was looking for a fun way to raise money for the Joplin Tornado Recovery. The event provided an opportunity to build camaraderie among teams outside of the work environment, and for family and friends to come and support each other.



CDT Team takes the Championship Softball Tournament Title this year.

The tournament consisted of three game days for the teams to compete which led to the finale championship game. Last year the Southwest Area Team (SWAT) won the championship, however, this year Chesterfield District TMC (CDT) team took the title.

"People like to get out and have fun, and softball is a great way to do that. It is good to see employees having fun and working together as a team outside of work," said Voice of SL Team Leader, Nicholas Correnti.

Nick said he hopes the district could expand the sports to basketball and bowling in the future.

MoDOT Child Passenger Safety Events held in St. Louis, Franklin, and Jefferson Counties

by Shaunda White

Nationally, 80 percent of child safety seats are installed incorrectly. How about yours? That's the question MoDOT CPS Technicians asked parents.

As part of the organizations' commitment to reduce the number of child fatalities and injuries in auto crashes, MoDOT staff conducted child passenger safety checks at different locations throughout the St. Louis region.

Infants, toddlers and even older children are more vulnerable to injury in the event of an accident, regardless of the severity of the crash. “We want to put emphasis on the importance of placing children in car seats”, said Shirlyn Myles, community liaison, and a certified CPS technician.

As part of the child passenger safety checks, parents were provided with brochures on safety and new car seats if the one they had in place was insufficient. If you would like more information on events like this in the future, please contact Shirlyn Myles at 314.453.1811.

Fit 4 Life Team challenges St. Louis employees to create a healthy lifestyle

by Shaunda White

The SL Fit 4 Life team launched its first district healthy lifestyle challenge on Oct. 1. This team was created earlier this year to promote healthy life choices within the workforce.

The main objective of this challenge was to provide employees with a kick start on making healthy lifestyle changes. The challenge encourages employees to start a team of two or more employees which encourage each other to replace bad habits with new healthy ones.

Once a team is signed up, each team sets their own personal goals and submits them to the Fit 4 Life website at the end of each month. The challenges run quarterly, but a team can join at any time. The team with the highest average per quarter will be declared the winner and will receive recognition.

“Healthier employees will result in safer and ultimately less injuries for the employees in our district,” said Lisa Lamons, district safety & health manager.

If you would like additional information about this challenge, please contact Lisa at 314.453.5012.



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We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

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SW District at Work



Signing up for a flu shot at one of the Joplin employee fairs are, from left, Cassville Maintenance Supervisor David Colf, Joplin Equipment Technician Supervisor Aaron Underwood, Joplin Resident Engineer Jim Conley and Joplin Construction Inspector Ryan Dingman. (Photo by David Mitchell)



Nevada Intermediate Construction Inspector Aaron Rieder measures the width of the shoulder at a new interchange under construction at I-49 & 30th Road in Lamar. (Photo by David Mitchell)

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Winter Drill All About 'All Hands on Deck'

by David Mitchell

A snowstorm requires "all hands on deck." That's what it will be for MoDOT's Nov. 5 statewide Winter Operations Drill.

Outdoors or indoors, all employees will practice the jobs they will have when snow and ice falls this winter.

This is the second year for the statewide drill.

During the drill, MoDOT trucks will travel assigned routes simulating response to a snow event. Emergency Operation Centers in each district also will be activated.

The idea is to run all assigned snow routes and work through the communication process internally and with customers.

On the Road

"In the Southwest District, trucks will not have plows and spreaders mounted for the drill, but that's not needed," District Maintenance Engineer Michael Middleton said. "We will be timing how long it takes for each truck to complete their loops."

Southwest District Winter Operations By the Numbers

- 289 Snow Removal Trucks
- 615 MoDOT Plow Operators
- 80 Emergency non-MoDOT Drivers
- 82 EOC Call Takers
- 29,000 Tons of Salt
- Total Cost (2012-13): \$5.8 million
- Total Cost (2011-12): \$2.3 million

Middleton said daytime crews will roll beginning at 8 a.m. Nighttime crews start at noon.

“It helps us identify weak links in the chain and find the gaps,” Assistant District Engineer Andy Mueller said. “You can plan all you want, but until you actually drive these routes, you don’t know what surprises are out there.”

“We make sure people know where they’re going and what they’re doing,” Maintenance Superintendent Dan Ream said.

Planning for dealing with winter weather in the Ozarks begins in July. Maintenance crews and equipment technicians have been working to make sure plow blades are ordered and installed and spreaders are calibrated and in good working order.

Importance of Communication

Employees not assigned to plowing snow get a refresher on procedures needed to handle the normal spike in customer phone calls during storms.

Many employees will spend time going over procedures in the Emergency Operations Center which is operated in the Transportation Management Center of the Ozarks in Springfield. Others will participate on the phone and computer in their regular workplace.

Intensity

Even though snow removal requires a small percentage of work days, it impacts more people at any given time than anything MoDOT does.

“It is our top priority, but our values don’t change. The safety of the public and our employees still comes first,” Mueller said. That’s why the annual drill is so important.

“The more you practice, the better you get,” he said, especially for new employees. “The familiarity that less experienced operators gained (last year) was invaluable.”

As Ream put it, “Our goal every year is by the first of November to be able to shoot out the gate and plow snow.”

Joplin's First Diverging Diamond Interchange Dedicated

by Bob Edwards

Joplin's first Diverging Diamond Interchange at Interstate 44 and Range Line Road is providing more efficient and safer movement of traffic, a good fit for the city's gateway, participants in a dedication said.

"We're ahead of the curve," Joplin Mayor Melodee Colbert-Kean said, praising the progressive design at a ribbon-cutting Thursday, Oct. 17, on the northwest corner of the interchange.

"Such transportation improvements will help Joplin keep developing economically well into the future, Joplin State Rep. Bill White said. "I like to think this is going to make it easier for us to grow."

District Engineer Becky Baltz said the \$9 million project came in on budget and was completed two months ahead of schedule. She presented a certificate of appreciation to Brent Ponder of Emery Sapp and Sons of Columbia, the prime contractor.

The project:

- Replaced the 1960s-era I-44 bridges over Range Line Road and built the bridges high enough to increase clearance on Range Line Road to more than 17 feet (from 14 feet, 5 inches).
- Built straight, directional ramps for safer, smoother I-44 entry and exit. The new ramps eliminated cloverleaf loop ramps as well as a "weave" area where decelerating and accelerating traffic jockeyed for the same confined space on the Interstate.
- Reconfigured Range Line Road to a Diverging Diamond Interchange, shifting traffic to the left side of the road at new traffic signals on either side of I-44. The design reduces congestion, providing "free" left turns onto I-44 without crossing in front of oncoming vehicles and allowing through-traffic to progress more consistently.
- Provided dual turn lanes on the two I-44 off-ramps to better



Speaker lineup for the Oct. 17 dedication of the I-44/Range Line Road Diverging Diamond Interchange in Joplin, from left: MoDOT Director David Nichols, MHTC Chairman Joe Carmichael of Springfield, Southwest Missouri Lodging Association President Pete Hall of Hammons Properties; State Rep. Bill White and Joplin Mayor Melodee Colbert-Kean. (Photo by Bob Edwards)



Cutting a ribbon for the new I-44/Range Line Road interchange in Joplin are, from left, Southwest District Engineer Becky Baltz; MoDOT Director David Nichols; Jake Heisten from U.S. Rep. Billy Long's

move traffic turning north on Range Line Road, the direction taken by most people driving into Joplin.

office; Steve McIntosh from U.S. Sen. Roy Blunt's office; State Rep. Bill Reiboldt, Neosho; State Rep. Charlie Davis, Webb City; MHTC Chairman Joe Carmichael; and State Rep. Bill White, Joplin. (Photo by Bob Edwards)

Pete Hall of Hammons Properties, president of the Southwest Missouri Lodging Association in Joplin, told the dedication gathering that community response to the project is "overwhelmingly supportive and positive." He thanked MoDOT on behalf of his employer and the lodging association.

Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission Chairman Joe Carmichael of Springfield said he is proud of MoDOT for its accomplishments and efficiencies.

"It is distinguished among departments of transportation throughout the country," he said.

The I-44 and Range Line Road project symbolizes Joplin's progressiveness and demonstrates MoDOT's continued involvement in the community, Carmichael said.

The interchange makeover has already improved the drive into and out of Joplin at the city's "front door," he said. Safe and easy traffic movement is important to Joplin because its 50,000 population swells to about 250,000 every work day, thanks to commuters and shoppers and other visitors, he said.

MoDOT Director David Nichols said building a Diverging Diamond Interchange saves money because an interchange does not need to be expanded to provide the same kind of improvements to traffic flow and safety. The design is a prime example of MoDOT's innovative approach to solving transportation problems.

"We need to be doing more projects like this around the state," Nichols said.

Missourians will be engaged very soon in a conversation about transportation needs all over the state, he said, referring to MoDOT's latest Long-Range Transportation Plan about to be released.

Collaboration Makes Intersection Widening a Success

by Bob Edwards

Officials with Ozarks Technical Community College in Springfield complimented MoDOT for intersection widening work that improved traffic flow into and out of the main campus and along Chestnut Expressway, the busy thoroughfare in front of the college.

"It's been a huge win for traffic control on our campus," OTC Vice Chancellor Rob Rector said.

OTC Chancellor Hal Higdon said, "It's been a tremendous project."

Those comments came during an OTC Board of Trustees meeting Oct. 21. Southwest District Engineer Becky Baltz spoke briefly to express appreciation for the college's cooperation on the project.

Baltz said MoDOT works closely with many partners in the Springfield area on a variety of projects that benefit everyone.

"It's what makes our community special," she said.

At Chestnut Expressway and Sherman Avenue, MoDOT, OTC and City of Springfield representatives came together to agree on a final design, Transportation Project Designer Mark Mais said. The city contributed funds and piggybacked another project that built a multipurpose trail and a retaining wall.

MoDOT agreed to complete most of the project over the summer before fall classes resumed at OTC. Work that impacted traffic, especially on Chestnut Expressway, was done at night when traffic is lightest.

The project:

- Widened Chestnut Expressway on the eastbound side approaching Sherman Avenue and added a second eastbound left-turn lane onto northbound Sherman Avenue. This has improved traffic flow into the OTC campus and reduced backups for through-traffic on Chestnut Expressway.
- Closed access to Chestnut Street (which parallels Chestnut Expressway just to the north) on the west side of Sherman Avenue. This has made traffic flow smoother on Sherman Avenue and has helped traffic circulation on OTC's parking lots on each side of Sherman Avenue.
- Cost \$818,000 for design, right-of-way and construction, with the City of Springfield contributing \$245,000 of the total.
- APAC-Missouri of Columbia was the prime construction contractor.

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SE Coalition To Sponsor Team Spirit Workshop in Farmington

Join the Southeast Coalition for Roadway Safety at the Team Spirit Youth Leadership Training Workshop Monday, Nov. 18. The event will be held at the Farmington Civic Center, located at 2 Black Knight Drive in Farmington, Mo.

Sign-in will begin at 8 a.m., with the workshop concluding at 3 p.m. For the complete itinerary, please visit www.savemolives.com/southeast/index.html.

This one-day training for students and advisors will focus on safety issues of teens and driving. Dynamic, interactive workshops will be presented on safety belt use, drinking and driving, speeding, cell phone use, and texting while driving. Additional activities will focus on team building skills and action plan development. Through this training, the students will be empowered to take a leadership role in making a difference in their schools.



Join the SE Coalition for the Team Spirit Workshop on Nov. 18. Each school will develop an action plan for their school at the workshop.

Each school will develop an action plan at the workshop. This plan will address what they determine to be the number one concern among the students of their school that could lead to death and injury as a result of traffic crashes.

Please register to attend Team Spirit no later than Nov. 8. To register, please visit www.savemolives.com/southeast/index.html. For more information, please contact Sharee Galnore (Team Spirit) at (573) 335-7908 or sgalnore@cityofcapegirardeau.org, Rachel Penny (Team Spirit) at (573) 335-6621 x 1821 or rpenny@cityofcape.org, or Sandy Taurone (MoDOT) at (573) 472-5388 or sandra.taurone@modot.mo.gov.

SE District Discusses Improving Intersections with J-Turns

MoDOT met with New Madrid County motorists Oct. 29 to discuss improvements at the Route 60/Route E intersection and Route 60/Route FF intersection. The briefing will was held at MoDOT's Southeast District Office from 4 to 6 p.m. The project will include reconfiguring the two intersections in an effort to improve safety and traffic flow.

Reconfiguring the intersections with j-turns is one of the options currently being discussed.

"Traditional intersections have approximately 42 conflict points. J-turns can help reduce this number to as few as 24 conflict points," said Project Manager Pete Berry. "In addition, these types of conflict points do not typically lead to as severe crashes."

To navigate a j-turn, instead of crossing two lanes of traffic, drivers will turn right in the same direction as traffic and then safely merge into the left lane to turn. Drivers will then turn left to rejoin traffic on the divided highway.

Berry explained that j-turns offer a viable solution to traffic flow issues and help increase safety. However, MoDOT will continue to share more information about the reconfiguration as additional options are explored.



Visit <http://youtu.be/JPa2PdHXZK8> to learn more about navigating a j-turn intersection.

Intersection improvements could begin as early as spring 2016, with completion anticipated by fall 2016. As work is underway, Route 60 will be reduced to one-lane traffic in each direction at times near the intersection locations. In addition, short-term median closures will be necessary at

times.

For more information, please contact Berry at (417) 469-6242 or MoDOT's Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-888-ASK MODOT (275-6636). If you missed the public meeting, an online meeting is available at: www.modot.org/southeast/news_and_information/public_meetings.

Thanks to the SE District

R.K.Gant wrote:
Thanks! Thanks a Lot!! and Thank You VERY MUCH!!! for the wonderful work done on MO Hwy 72 in the Bunker area. The highway is fantastically gorgeous. The timing certainly helped the Oct. 19 Bunker Octoberfest. Hopefully all patriotic Americans will not litter on your great job.

For more info

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Comments & Suggestions

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